

Appl. No. 09/929,147
Amdt. dated April 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant received the Office Action dated January 25, 2006, in which the Examiner:

- objected to claims 9, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, 49 and 56 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated such claims were otherwise allowable;
- rejected claims 22-24, 26-31, 33-38, 40-45, 47-52 and 54-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 101;
- rejected claims 43-45 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Macon, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,715,455, hereinafter "Macon");
- rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 22-24, 27, 36-38, 41, 50-52 and 55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Lehman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,658,437, hereinafter "Lehman '437");
- rejected claims 2, 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Lehman '437 in view of Lehman (U.S. Pat. No. 5,732,402, hereinafter "Lehman '402");
- rejected claims 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Lehman '437 and further in view of Yamagami et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,256,282, hereinafter "Yamagami");
- rejected claims 8, 13, 26, 33, 40 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Lehman '437 and further in view of Zwilling et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,249,792, hereinafter "Zwilling");
- rejected claims 15-17, 20, 29-31 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Lehman '437 and Grossier (U.S. Pat. No. 6,553,478, hereinafter "Grossier");
- rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Lehman '437 and Grossier and further in view of Zwilling;
- rejected claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Grossier and Lehman '437 and further in view of Zwilling;
- rejected claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Zwilling;

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- rejected claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Lehman '437 and further in view of Bilbrey et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,227,863, hereinafter "Bilbrey");
- rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 22-24, 27, 36-38, 41, 50-52 and 55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Shoroff et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,023,744, hereinafter "Shoroff");
- rejected claims 2, 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Shoroff and Lehman '402;
- rejected claims 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Shoroff and Yamagami;
- rejected claims 8, 13, 26, 33, 40 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Shoroff and Zwilling;
- rejected claims 15-17, 20, 29-31 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Shoroff and Grossier;
- rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Shoroff, Grossier and Zwilling;
- rejected claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Grossier, Shoroff and Zwilling;
- rejected claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Zwilling; and
- rejected claim 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macon in view of Shoroff and Bilbrey.

With this Response, Applicant amends claims 1, 10, 15, 22, 29, 36, 43, and 50 and cancels claims 9, 14, 20-21, 27-28, 34-35, 41-42, 48-49, and 55-56. With two exceptions, the independent claims have been amended to include the limitations from the dependent claims that the Examiner concluded would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. The two exceptions involve dependent claims 9 and 14. Those two dependent claims depended from dependent claims 8 and 13. The limitations from dependent claims 8 and 13 have not been included in the respective independent claims 1 and 10 based on the Examiner's

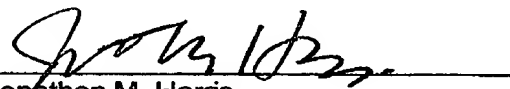
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reasoning that dependent claims 9 and 14 are allowable. On page 91 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that dependent claims 9 and 14 are allowable because those claims contain various limitations not found in the art of record. The scope of independent claims 1 and 10 has been narrowed to include precisely those limitations the Examiner concluded are not found in the cited art. Consequently, the additional limitations introduced by dependent claims 8 and 13 are not necessary for patentable per the Examiner's own reasoning.

Independent claims 22, 29, 36, 43, and 50 have also been amended to address the Examiner's § 101 concerns.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,


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